Statement

Annual percentage variation in the WPI

Pulses	As on 10.2.07	As on 13.1.07	As on 16.12.06	As on 18.11.06
Gram	30.5	29.0	36.4	45.2
Tur	14.3	7.5	6.5	4.2
Moong	29.7	35.4	38.9	39.9
Masoor	6.4	2.9	3.9	-1.0
Urad	19.5	33.0	39.0	45.8

Futures trading in essential commodities

465. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that futures trading in essential commodities is contributing to the price rise of those commodities to certain extent; and

(b) if so, the details of future trading allowed in various essential commodities and the corresponding volume of future trading and increase of prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The main reasons for the recent rise in prices of essential commodities are shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices. In the context of discussion regarding whether and to what exent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities in recent times, the Government has decided to set up an Expert Committee to go into this question in detail.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugar production

466. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of sugar production since 1998-99 indicating estimation for the current season;

(b) the details of the demand-supply ratio showing the quantity of sugar allocated to Public Distribution System and for general retail consumers and the corresponding average unit retail price prevailed year-wise;

(c) whether sugar had to be imported to manage the demand-supply gap during the above said periods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating its landed cost per unit and the retail prices the consumer had to pay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The sugar season-wise (October-September) details of sugar production since 1998-99 and estimates of sugar for the current season are as under:

Sugar Season (Oct.-Sept.)	Sugar Production (In lac tonnes)
1998-1999	154.52
1999-2000	181.93
2000-2001	185.10
2001-2002	184.98
2002-2003	201.32
2003-2004 (P)	139.58*
2004-2005 (P)	136.60*
2005-2006 (P)	193.21*
2006-2007 (Estimated)	227.34

(P) - Provisional
*Includes sugar converted from imported raw sugar.

(b) The details of the quantity of levy sugar allocated for Public Distribution System (PDS) and non-levy sugar released for general retail consumers

and the corresponding average retail price of sugar since 1998-99 sugar season was as under:—

Sugar Year	Allocation of sugar			Average retail price of sugar (Rs. per kg.)**
	Levy	Non-levy	Total	
1998-1999	44.81	96.54	141.35	15.00 - 17.50
1999-2000	48.01	107.07	155.08	14.00 - 18.00
2000-2001	37.53	120.82	158.35	14.00 - 17.50
2001-2002	28.15	125.79	153.94	13.60 - 17.50
2002-2003	22.93	117.44	140.37	12.30 - 16.00
2003-2004	24.67	151.20	175.87	13.00 - 20.00
2004-2005	25.44	146.00	171.44	16.00 - 22.00
2005-2006	19.83	163.38	183.21	18.00 - 22.00
2006-2007*	8.85	67.00	75.85	16.00 - 21.50

*up to February, 2007
**Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture.

As regards retail issue price of levy sugar, the details are as under:—

With effect from	Rs. per Kg.
01.10.1997	11.40
15.02.1999	12.00
01.03.2000	13.00
01.03.2001	13.25
01.03.2002 till date	13.50

(c) and (d) The imports of sugar are on O.G.L. subject to the payment of customs duty and countervailing duty plus education cess. However, in order to augment sugar stocks for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and to enable the Government to meet the normative 3 months' consumption requirement of the country, the Advance Licence Scheme was liberalized for raw sugar import, in as much as the imported raw sugar under Advance License was allowed to be processed into white sugar, sold in the domestic market, and allowing such importers to fulfill export obligation within 24 months period or such extended period as allowed by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) by exporting indigenously manufactured white sugar.

The quantity of sugar imported during the above period was as under:

Financial year	Quantity (in lac tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1998-1999	9.00	1111.22
1999-2000	11.81	1110.80
2000-2001	0.30	31.11
2001-2002	0.26	32.60
2002-2003	Neg.	Neg.
2003-2004	0.74	62.70
2004-2005	9.33	976.17
2005-2006	5.59	651.80
2006-2007 (upto October 2006)	0.010	2.99

Neg - Negligible

(Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Kolkata)

Details regarding landed cost per unit is not maintained by this Department. As regards retail prices of sugar, the reply has already been given in part (b) above.

Hallmarking of jewellery

467. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to make hallmark compulsory for all jewellery items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) It has been decided to make hallmark for all gold jewellery items compulsory with effect from 1st January, 2008 in a phased manner.